AP U.S. History, Semester 2
Unit Quiz: The Modern Age
Instructor Version B

Answers: Multiple-Choice Questions

1.	**A**	**16.**	**A**
2.	**A**	**17.**	**A**
3.	**D**	**18.**	**C**
4.	**E**	**19.**	**C**
5.	**C**	**20.**	**A**
6.	**D**	**21.**	**D**
7.	**D**	**22.**	**E**
8.	**A**	**23.**	**C**
9.	**A**	**24.**	**C**
10.	**C**	**25.**	**E**
11.	**B**	**26.**	**D**
12.	**D**	**27.**	**D**
13.	**C**	**28.**	**A**
14.	**E**	**29.**	**E**
15.	**E**	**30.**	**C**

Answers: Free-Response Questions

Students choose to answer one of the following essay questions.

1. **In what ways was the Reagan Revolution a response to the political crises of the 1960s and 1970s?**

2. **"Foreign policy and overseas events have always had a great impact on American domestic politics."**

   Evaluate the validity of this statement by examining the effect that two of the following foreign-policy events had on domestic politics in the 1960s and 1970s:

   - **OPEC oil embargo**
   - **Vietnam War**
   - **Iran hostage crisis**
   - **Nixon's visit to China**

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Question 1:
In what ways was the Reagan Revolution a response to the political crises of the 1960s and 1970s?

Key Points
Some students might argue that Reagan's policies didn't constitute a revolution, but all students should draw connections between Reagan's election in 1980 and policies throughout the 1980s with the social turmoil and political crises of the 1960s and 1970s.

In their essay, students might discuss the following domestic and foreign political events of the 1960s-1970s:

- Civil rights movement
- Assassinations of JFK, RFK, MLK, and Malcolm X
- War on poverty
- Rising deficits
- Rising inflation
- New Left movement
- Women's movement
- Counterculture
- High energy costs
- Watergate scandal
- Cuban missile crisis
- War in Vietnam and war protests
- Iran hostage crisis

Reagan declared that, "Government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem;" his approach to what he saw as the economic and moral crises of previous two decades was to decrease the size of the federal government. Reagan grouped the crises he faced into the categories of moral, financial, and military issues. Below is a list of historical evidence students might include in their essays in each of these categories:

Moral Issues

- Reagan depended on the votes of the "moral majority" to win the 1980 election.
- Reagan complained about the collapse of American morality, referring in part to the turmoil of the 1960s and 1970s.
- Reagan claimed that if families were strengthened and religion brought back into people's daily lives, poverty, homelessness, and AIDS would gradually disappear.
- Reagan opposed the feminist movement, the Equal Rights Amendment, and comparable-worth policies.
- Reagan did not push the moral majority's morality program through Congress, however.

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Financial Issues

- Reagan came to office after years of rising inflation and federal deficits; his administration faced increased poverty, a recession, and the OPEC embargo.
- "Reaganomics" was a "supply side" economic policy, in contrast to Keynesian policy of the Democrats.
- The Economic Recovery Act of 1981 made steep cuts in income, estate, and capital-gains taxes.
- Increasing budget deficits and increased military spending necessitated the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Bill of 1982, which raised some taxes.
- Reagan tried to reduce the federal government, and the number of government regulations.
- Reagan's policies forced people on welfare to work and set time limits on some benefits (such as AFDC).
- Reagan pursued policies against labor unions.
- Reagan also opposed environmental protection because it added costs to production and raised prices.

Military Issues

- International issues during Reagan's presidency include: an accelerated arms race with the U.S.S.R., turmoil and revolution in Nicaragua and El Salvador, and the continuing and escalating conflict in the Middle East.
- Reagan increased military spending in comparison to the Carter administration.
- Reagan funded "Star Wars" missile-defense system as well as the expansion of American forces in Asia and the Americas.
- Reagan claimed that the U.S. had "overlearned" the lessons of Vietnam and was too reluctant to intervene when our interests required it.
- Defense expenditures made it impossible maintain social services without raising taxes, and they also led to huge deficits and increased inflation.

Pointers for Instructors

- Make sure students focus on their argument, rather than on a narrative.
- Make sure students use specific evidence to support their arguments.

Scoring Rubric

This question is worth 40 points. There are five scoring ranges:

36-40 points—Excellent
To score 36-40 points, the student's answer should have a strong, clear thesis that argues for or against the proposition that the Reagan Revolution responded to the political and social crises of the previous two decades. The quality of the writing should be excellent, the answer must show logical patterns, and the student should include many of the major points in the above list. The organization should be clear. An excellent answer may also argue that Reagan's policies did not actually constitute a revolution. The answer may contain minor errors.

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32-35 points—Very Good
To score 32-35 points, the student's answer should have a thesis that makes an argument about the proposition that the Reagan Revolution responded to the political and social crises of the previous two decades. The answer must be logically organized, and the student should include many of the specific points from the above list. The answer may contain errors.

28-31 points—Adequate
To score 28-31 points, the student's answer should try to make some argument about the Reagan Revolution, and it must include at least some of the points listed above. The answer may not connect Reagan's policies to the domestic crises of the earlier decades. There may be flaws in the thesis and argument.

24-27 points—Flawed
To score 24-27 points, the student's answer will demonstrate serious weaknesses. It may have no thesis or argument at all, and it will include few of the points listed above. The answer may show little understanding of Reagan's policies or of the domestic crises of the earlier decades, and may not explain the connections between the policies and the crises.

20-23 points—Severely Flawed
To score 20-23 points, the student's answer will demonstrate almost no attempt to answer the question, and will include very few, if any, of the points listed above.

Question 2:
"Foreign policy and overseas events have always had a great impact on American domestic politics."

Evaluate the validity of this statement by examining the effect that two of the following foreign-policy events had on domestic politics in the 1960s and 1970s:

- **OPEC oil embargo**
- **Vietnam War**
- **Iran hostage crisis**
- **Nixon's visit to China**

Key Points

Students should explain in some detail the two foreign-policy events they choose to discuss in the essay, and should clearly connect the event to its domestic effects or consequences. Much more information is available about the Vietnam War than about some of the other events, but students should devote equal attention in their essay to each of the events they discuss.

Below is a list of historical evidence students might include in their essays:

OPEC Oil Embargo

- In 1973, the U.S. sent aid to Israel during the Yom Kippur war with Syria and Egypt.

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- OPEC, led by Arab governments at that time (though some African and South American countries were also members), stopped selling any oil to any country that aided Israel, including the U.S.
- The oil embargo led to "stagflation"; Americans experienced oil shortages and rationing, high prices, disruptions in transportation, inflation, and recession.
- Led to new ideas about conservation and protection of expendable resources.

Vietnam

- The human and fiscal costs affected virtually every aspect of American domestic life.
- Created division between those who fought and those who demonstrated.
- Created division between those who fought and demonstrated, and those who made policy.
- Created divisions between conservatives and liberals, the pro-war and anti-war camps.
- Disrupted the political parties, especially the Democrats in 1968, and the Republicans after 1972.
- Sucked up almost all available fiscal resources and made it difficult for Kennedy or Johnson to address important domestic needs.
- Probably responsible for Johnson's decision not to run for a second term.
- Largely responsible for Humphrey's loss in 1968.
- Partly responsible for Nixon's loss of popularity, which lead ultimately to his desperation to win in 1972, and his resignation after Watergate.
- The loss in Vietnam made it more difficult for future presidents to pursue interventionist policies in the ensuing decade (until Reagan).

Iran Hostage Crisis

- Shah of Iran, heavily supported by the U.S., fell in 1979.
- U.S. had helped train his secret service, which led to great hostility towards U.S. by the revolutionaries.
- Late in 1979 revolutionaries took over the U.S. embassy in Tehran and took 53 American hostages.
- President Carter attempted a rescue mission in 1980, which failed miserably.
- After more than a year of captivity, the hostages were released when Carter authorized the release of Iranian assets.
- Hostage crisis was on the front page almost every day for the 444 days.
- Changed President Carter from a fairly "dovish" leader to a hawk.
- Gave Reagan the opportunity to charge that America's influence overseas had fallen so much that a "second-rate" country like Iran could hold the entire country "hostage."
- Demonstrated how complicated the world had become.
- Americans learned much more about the Middle East, about modern revolutions, about Islam.
- May have been the single most important ingredient in Reagan's victory in 1980.

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Nixon's Visit to China

- Nixon was a conservative president who had devoted practically his entire political life to criticizing communism, and who had supported confrontation of communist China at every opportunity.
- In spite of this, Nixon decided to open diplomatic relations with China's communist government.
- Americans were able to follow his visit on TV, see the places he saw in China.
- Improved relations with China were probably the most important change in American policy in Asia in the last half-century.
- Changed American attitudes about their role in the world from defending democracy to spreading capitalism throughout the world.
- Deflected attention from Vietnam.
- Gave Republicans the opportunity to claim that foreign affairs are best left in Republican hands at the presidential level.

Pointers for Instructors

- Make sure students focus on their argument, rather than on a narrative.
- Make sure students use specific evidence to support their arguments.
- Students might make different arguments than those listed above.

Scoring Rubric

This question is worth 40 points. There are five scoring ranges:

36-40 points—Excellent
To score 36-40 points, the student's answer should have a strong, clear thesis that describes the connection between two foreign events and American domestic politics. The quality of the writing should be excellent, the answer must show logical patterns, and the student should include many of the major points in the above list. The organization should be clear. The answer may contain minor errors.

32-35 points—Very Good
To score 32-35 points, the student's answer must have a thesis that makes an argument about the connection between the foreign events and domestic politics. Organization of the answer must show logical patterns, and the student should include many of the specific points from the above list. The answer may contain errors.

28-31 points—Adequate
To score 28-31 points, the student's answer must try to make some argument about the connection between foreign and domestic politics and must include at least some of the points listed above. There may be flaws in the thesis and argument.

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24-27 points—Flawed
To score 24-27 points, the student's answer will demonstrate serious weaknesses. It may have no thesis argument at all, and it will include few of the points listed above. The answer may show little understanding of the foreign events, will not be able to demonstrate connections to domestic politics.

20-23 points—Severely Flawed
To score 20-23 points, the student's answer will demonstrate almost no attempt to answer the question, and will include very few, if any, of the points listed above.

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